

Mission Statement

The City of San Diego's Clean Water Task Force seeks to develop and implement strategies that protect and restore water quality in the interests of public health, recreational activity, and the functional integrity of coastal ecosystems.

The City of San Diego's Clean Water Task Force has the vision of a pollution-free environment, a City in which water quality does not pose a public health risk, nor preclude recreational activities, nor threaten ecological integrity.

Principles

- Water pollution impacts ecosystem health, threatens public health, impacts quality of life, and undermines the local economy.
- Water quality issues must be dealt with in a comprehensive and holistic manner that address the impacts of pollution on ecosystems as well as human health and quality of life.
- Pollution prevention should be the primary strategy in achieving water quality goals.
- The City's participation in a leadership role is critical to addressing water pollution problems.

The following goals and objectives are intended to give the City specific, quantifiable goals to meet in the next 4 years. They are not end points but instead are beginning goals in the long process of improving water quality.

Goal

Reduce days of beach closures and postings by 50% by 2004

- Total number of beach posting (including closures) days in 2000 = 2,334¹
- Total number of beach posting days with 50% reduction = 1,167

Objectives

- Pursue source identification studies of impaired water bodies.
- Implement source control and structural BMPs near water bodies impaired for bacteria.
- Construct low flow diversion systems to capture sewer spills and nuisance flows.
- Restore, enhance, and create natural filtration areas (i.e. wetlands, riparian habitat) that benefit water quality and increase natural habitat without negatively effecting groundwater quality.

¹ Total number of beach closure days includes closures and postings at City of San Diego beaches, but does not include Torrey Pines State Beach..

Goal

By 2004, reduce by 25% the total number of sewer spills from the year 2000 figure.

- Total number of sewer spills in 2000 = 364
- Total number of sewer spills with a 25% reduction by 2004 = 273
- *By 2004, reduce by 25% the total number of sewer spills to public waters from the year 2000 figure.*
- Total number of sewer spills to public waters in 2000 = 33
- Total number of sewer spills to public waters with 25% reduction by 2004 = 25

Objectives

- Recommend that the City Council implement a 4-year, 7.5% sewer rate increase to pay for an accelerated pipe replacement program.
- Continue program to televise over 1000 miles of pipelines susceptible to spills.
- Create and implement new sewer spill detection methods to decrease response times to contain sewer spills.
- Construct low flow diversion systems to capture sewer spills and nuisance flows.

Goal

Comply with the Municipal Storm Water Permit (Order No. 2001-01)

Objectives

- Recommend to City Council a strategic plan for water quality that will also serve as the City's jurisdictional Urban Runoff Management Program.
- Interface with the City's strategic framework element for inclusion of water quality and watershed protection principles in the city of villages concept.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive program that teaches pollution prevention techniques.
- Establish Best Management Practices (BMPs) for new and existing development.
- Develop and implement an ambient water monitoring program to establish baselines to assess overall water body health and evaluate long-term trends in water quality.
- Collaborate within watersheds with other jurisdictions including Municipal, County, State, Federal and tribal agencies to coordinate water quality protection.
- Develop a financing plan to implement the municipal storm water permit.